CMNS2320: News Media
Singapore PSB
Trimester 3 - 2023 (Singapore)

OVERVIEW

Course Description	Digital disruption has transformed news media and consequently change in the industry is constant. This course will introduce students to how news media operates and will develop analytical, research, interviewing, production, multimedia and writing skills relevant to multi-platform journalism in a dynamic media environment. Course content will contextualise and analyse news media through a lens that explores cultural, historical, political and economic perspectives.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	If you have successfully completed CMNS1280, you cannot enrol in this course.
Assumed Knowledge Contact Hours	40 units at 1000 level including CMNS1090 Media Storytelling. **Singapore PSB** **Lecture** Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) **Tutorial** Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)
Unit Weighting Workload	10 Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Singapore PSB**
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Consultation: In class or by email

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office **School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences**
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SYLLABUS

Course Content Topic will include:
- reporting across platforms
- convergence
- regulation
- law and ethics
- audiences
- data journalism
- innovation
- entrepreneurial approaches
- social media
- public relations and journalism relationships
- Indigenous affairs, religion and sport reporting

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**
1. Describe and analyse the role of news media in society;

2. Apply news reporting skills for text-based and multiplatform publications in practical presentations;

3. Critique the skills and practices of professional journalism.

Course Materials Refer to Course Site

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	4 Sep, Mon	Introduction to News Media	Tutorial: - Assign journal topics - Screening of *Page One: Inside the New York Times*	Select journaling group: even week or odd week
2	11 Sep, Fri	Journalism: The First Draft of History	Tutorial: - Writing Exercise - News Quiz 1	Journal #1 for even-week group Form groups for topic champion
3	19 Sep, Tue	Digital Disruption and Media Convergence	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Quiz 2	Journal #1 for odd-week group
4	25 Sep, Mon	What is news? Who decides what is newsworthy?	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Quiz 3	Journal #2 for even-week group
5	2 Oct, Mon	Journalism and the Law	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Quiz 4 - Story idea consultation	Journal #2 for odd-week group
6	9 Oct. Mon	Story idea pitches for News Story assignment	Story idea pitches for News Story assignment	Story idea presentation pitch, in-class presentation due (10%)
Mid-term break				
7	23 Oct, Mon	Tools of the Trade	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Quiz 5	Journal #3 for even-week group
8	30 Oct, Mon	Regulating the Media	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Quiz 6 (make-up)	Journal #3 for odd-week group Slideshow due online (20%)
9	6 Nov, Mon	Ethical Journalism	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise	Journal #4 for even-week group
10	14 Nov, Tue	Journalism and PR	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Story consultation	Journal #4 for odd-week group
11	20 Nov, Mon	Reporting Sensibly	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Story consultation	Journal #5 for even-week group News story draft due online (10%)
12	27 Nov, Mon	The Future of Journalism	Tutorial: - Topic Champion - Writing Exercise - News Story consultation	Journal #5 for odd-week group
13	4 Dec, Mon	NIL	NIL	News story final due online (10%)
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	In Class Quiz	Ongoing in class, from Week 2 to Week 7	Individual	20%	1
2	Topic Champion and Journal	Journal: Five online deadlines, from Week 2 to 12	Individual	30%	1, 3
3	News Story Slideshow	Idea Pitch – Week 6 due in class Slideshow – Week 8 due online News Story – Week 11 (draft) due online, Week 13 (final) due online	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3

Late Submissions   The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 – In-Class Quiz

Assessment Type   Quiz
Description   Students will answer 10 questions on current news stories reported the week before culled from local English-language news sites.
Weighting   20%
Length   10 short written answers per quiz
Due Date   Week 2 to Week 7
Submission Method   Online on Canvas
Assessment Criteria   Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
Return Method   Online
Feedback Provided   Online

Assessment 2 – Topic Champion and Journal

Assessment Type   In-class group presentation and journal entries
Description   Topic Champion - In a group, students will prepare and make a presentation on the topic of the previous week's lecture and lead a class discussion on the same topic.
Journal entries – Students will be organised into either the even-week group or odd-week group. They will have to write five journal entries across the trimester, reflecting on the weekly topic and class discussion.
Weighting   30%
Length   Presentation 10 minutes. Journal entry 500 words each (total: 2500 words).
Due Date   As assigned between Week 2 to 12
Submission Method   In class, Online on Canvas
Assessment Criteria   Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
Return Method   Online
Feedback Provided   Online

Assessment 3 – News Story and Slideshow

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	Each student will research and produce a slideshow and news feature on the same topic suitable for publication on the national student website *The Junction*. This task will include a social media component and will have staggered deadlines.
Weighting	50%
Format / Length	Deliverables as per professional template.
Due Date	Short presentation pitch on story idea due in class in Week 6.
	Slideshow due online in Week 8.
	News story first draft due online in Week 11. News story final due online in Week 13.
Submission Method	In class, Online on Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include:
	- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
	- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
	- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva)

Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.

Academic Misconduct   All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.

Adverse Circumstances   The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s).
Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
1.   the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2.   the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3.   you are requesting a change of placement; or
4.   the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:
https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236

Important Policy Information   The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.
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